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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LAHOOD].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 19, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray, O God, that peace will reign in our world and we specially pray that peace will reign in our hearts. We are grateful that even in lives that know the tension between the ideals of the mind and the reality of an imperfect world there can be a sense of calm, and even with great responsibilities that seem to overwhelm there can be serenity. Grant to all Your people, O God, the gift of peace and calm and serenity, this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. GUTIERREZ].

Mr. GUTIERREZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There will be fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

IT IS TIME TO UPDATE MEDICARE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day. Today, the House will move to preserve and protect Medicare.

Thirty years ago, on a closed rule, Congress passed a 1960's Blue Cross-Blue Shield health care plan called Medicare. Health care has progressed 30 years. It has improved. Now it is time to bring Medicare up to date.

If we do not, it is going to go broke. The only way to sustain the cumbersome system is to raise payroll taxes \$123 billion.

The Republican plan will preserve and protect Medicare and offer some options. If seniors do nothing, they will stay on Medicare. They can also select Medicare Plus to expand their coverage through a health managed care plan. They can select a medical savings plan to reward them for having a healthy lifestyle, or they can select the health care plan they had while working under an employer if he chooses to offer it.

Those who oppose updating Medicare are the same folks who said schoolchildren would be starving this year. It was reported last night they said if we passed this plan, one-fourth of the hospitals in America will close.

Well the schoolchildren are not starving, and the hospitals will not close.

I urge my colleagues to preserve and protect Medicare. Live long and prosper.

WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day. A day that House Republicans, to fulfill their unsatiable desire to give a tax cut to their wealthiest contributors, will try to slash Medicare by \$300 billion.

We Democrats remember historic days. We remember when 30 years ago Lyndon Johnson and Harry Truman stood together and said, "the time has come to guarantee health care for all of our seniors."

We feel as much pride in that day as Republicans should feel shame on this day. So maybe it is time for them to remember their history too. In 1865, facing a challenge far greater than rising Medicare costs, our greatest President—a Republican President—stated that we would heal our Nation's wounds "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

I say to my colleagues in the majority—slashing \$300 billion from seniors' health care for a tax giveaway to your rich friends is malice, pure and simple. With malice toward none, with charity for all. How empty and distant those words seem to the party of Abraham Lincoln today.

REFORMING MEDICARE FOR THE BETTER

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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